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COLNE VALLEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1939.

R.T.E.NAISMITH, M.B., B.S.

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COLNE VALLEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Town Hall,
LINTHWAITE.

Gentlemen,

This year, owing to war economy and to the multitudinous duties placed upon the staff, the annual report is not only abbreviated but is late in publication. All the tables of statistics, which one expects, have been omitted and a summary of their contents is included, but even then, all the work has been done in their compilation an d they are filed for the completion of a comprehensive report at the end of the war.

I must once again state my appreciation of the splendid team work in the department and thank members of the Health Committee for their support.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R.T.E. Naismith.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These are exactly as last year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	16,052
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1939	22,460
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	7,346
Rateable value and the sum represented by a penny rate	£115,526 - £446

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	273	133	140
Illegitimate	8	3	5

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.55

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	18	8	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 60.00

DEATHS.

Total	M.	F.
350	156	194

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.58

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List.) -

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1	3.3
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	1	3.3
Total	2	6.6

DEATH RATE IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	85.14
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	83.93
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ..	125.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	47.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Although making no detailed comments on the above figures, I am including all the deaths in groups as set out in the Registrar-General's Short List.

GENERAL REVIEWING OF RECENT REVISIONS.

These are exactly as last year.

STATISTICS AND VITAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	16,022
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1929	23,460
Number of inhabited-houses (end of 1929) according to Rate Books	7,344
Rateable value and the sum represented by a penny rate	£112,828 - £444

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	273	152	140
Illegitimate	8	2	6
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			12.52

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	18	8	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births)			80.00

DEATHS.

	Total	M.	F.
	280	156	124

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.52

DEATHS FROM PREVENTABLE CAUSES.

(Headings 20 & 20 of the Registrar-General's Short List.)

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
No. 20 Puerperal sepsis.	1	2.2
No. 20 Other Puerperal causes	1	2.2
Total	2	4.4

INFANT RATE IN FIGURES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Rate Infants per 1,000 live births	85.14
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	83.83
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	126.
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	47.
Deaths from Lung Disease (all ages)	21.
Deaths from Violence (all ages)	1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Although making no special comments on the above figures, I do draw attention to the deaths in groups as set out in the Registrar-General's Short List.

Cause.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Diabetes.	4	6	10
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	15	21
Heart Disease	45	64	109
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	3	12
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Influenza	3	1	4
Cancer	21	26	47
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	5	11
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2	5

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 24 such deaths, 13 males and 11 females. The figure of 85 per 1,000 live births is nearly double that for the country and is not at all good. On going into the cause more deeply 11 were due to prematurity 9 of these being born in hospital. The other 13 cases were divided amongst 10 different diseases.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER. There were 19 cases, 11 male and 8 females; 5 were under school age, 13 of school age and 1 over school age.

DIPHTHERIA. There were 3 cases, all females and all of school age.

ERYSIPELAS. 14 cases were reported - 10 males and 4 females.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. 2 cases reported.

WHOOPING COUGH. There were three cases one being a male.

PNEUMONIA. There were 27 cases, 16 being males and 11 females.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were 19 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 7 male and 12 female and 12 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 4 male and 8 female reported while the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were 11 - 6 males and 5 females and from non-pulmonary tuberculosis 5 - 3 being males.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is much the same as last year a slightly higher percentage of houses now being on the Huddersfield Corporation's supply. There were 18 samples taken for bacteriological tests, 13 being satisfactory 4 unsatisfactory and 1 doubtful. Five of the samples were from the Huddersfield Corporation's Windy End tank supply, 3 were unsatisfactory, 1 doubtful and the last one satisfactory after certain remedial works had been carried out. On the Dartmouth supply, Mary's Rest Reservoir water gave rise to complaints and a test gave unsatisfactory results. All the springs serving the reservoir were overhauled and the next test proved quite satisfactory. The works asked for at Polegate Well have been instrumental in making this supply satisfactory. A supply serving a number of houses at Haughs Green, Colcar, failed owing to corrosion of the service main. Four statutory notices were served on owners of property there to provide a satisfactory supply, and much legal argument ensued, but finally the Council at their own cost replaced several defective lengths with new pipes.

Cause.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Diabetes.	4	6	10
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	15	21
Heart disease	42	64	106
Other Circulatory diseases	9	3	12
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Influenza	3	1	4
Cancer	22	25	47
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	5	11
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	2	7

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 24 such deaths, 12 males and 12 females. The figure of 28 per 1,000 live births is nearly double that for the country and is not at all good. On going into the cause more closely 11 were due to prematurity 8 of these being born in hospital. The other 13 cause were divided amongst 10 different diseases.

PREVALENCE OF AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER. There were 10 cases, 11 male and 8 female; 3 were under school age, 13 of school age and 2 over school age.

DIPHTHERIA. There were 4 cases, all female and all of school age.

MEASLES. 14 cases were reported - 10 males and 4 females.

INFLUENZA VIRUS. 8 cases reported.

WHOOPING COUGH. There were three cases one being a male.

PNEUMONIA. There were 27 cases, 16 being males and 11 females.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were 18 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 7 male and 11 female and 12 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 4 male and 8 female respectively while the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were 11 - 6 males and 5 females and from non-pulmonary tuberculosis 8 - 5 being males.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is much the same as last year a slightly higher percentage of houses now being on the Sunderfield Corporation's supply. There were 12 samples taken for bacteriological tests, 12 being satisfactory 4 unsatisfactory and 1 doubtful. Five of the samples were from the Sunderfield Corporation's Study Tap tank supply, 3 were unsatisfactory, 1 doubtful and the last one satisfactory after certain remedial works had been carried out. On the Dartmouth supply, Harry's Hill Reservoir water gave rise to complaints and a test gave unsatisfactory results. All the springs serving the reservoir were overhauled and the next test proved quite satisfactory. The works scheme for the Colonia Hall have been instituted in setting this supply satisfactory. A supply serving a number of houses at Bourne Green, Colnore, failed owing to corrosion of the service main. Four statutory notices were served on owners of property there to provide a satisfactory supply, but such local arrangement ensued, that the Council at their own cost replaced nearly several defective lengths with new pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There was no new scheme in this connection but 25 yards of sewer were relaid in Crimble Clough.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

As in last years report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The total number of privies converted to water closets during the year was 58 - tub closets converted numbered 21 giving a total of 79. Additionally 29 water closets were provided for existing property and 51 water closets in respect of new houses built during the year. This gives a total of 159 water closets added during the year. The conversions entailed a payment of the grant of £3 in each of 88 cases.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is much the same as last year and all details and figures have been arranged so that they may be recorded and used for a comprehensive report.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

NUISANCES.

The number of nuisances in hand at the end of 1938 was 38, and during the year under review 183 new nuisances were inspected and recorded, making a total of 221 for abatement. Of this number 169 have been abated, leaving 52 in hand at the end of the year. In dealing with nuisances 486 visits of inspection have been made. A summary of the nuisances shows that of the total, 71 were due to defective sanitary conveniences, 45 to defective drainage, 4 premises in such a state as to be a nuisance, 3 smoke nuisances, 27 to various conditions in factories, 6 defective sewers, 12 in connection with water supplies, 8 offensive accumulations and 7 various. Four statutory notices have been issued during the year. Forty four informal notices were issued, of which forty two were complied with at the year end, and 226 interviews with owners took place.

FACTORIES.

There has been no change in the number of factories on the register from last year, the numbers being 159 with mechanical power and 38 without mechanical power. The requirements with regard to fire escapes have been practically complied with, only 3 unimportant remaining outstanding. One case of overcrowding was found and remedied. Seventeen cases of lack of artificial lighting etc., in sanitary conveniences were reported, and of these 9 were remedied and 8 remain in hand. Privy and tub conveniences at several factories have been condemned and water closets provided in place. The provisions regarding cleanliness and lime-washing have been fairly well carried out.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There has no new scheme in this connection but 20 yards of sewer were relaid in Orchile Street.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

As in last years report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The total number of privies converted to water closets during the year was 56 - two closets demolished numbered 21 giving a total of 79. Additionally 30 water closets were provided for existing property and 21 water closets in respect of new houses built during the year. This gives a total of 130 water closets added during the year. The corresponding entries in payment of the grant of £3 in each of 56 cases.

HOUSING INSPECTION.

This is much the same as last year and all details and figures have been returned so that they may be recorded and used for a comprehensive report.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections at the end of 1938 was 20, and during the year under review 1083 new nuisances were inspected and recorded, making a total of 1103 for consideration. Of this number 1.50 have been abated, leaving 953 to hand at the end of the year. In dealing with nuisances 428 visits of inspection have been made. A number of the nuisances abated that of the total, 72 were due to defective sanitary conveniences, 22 to defective drainage, 6 conditions in such a state as to be a nuisance, 3 smoke nuisances, 27 to various conditions in factories, 6 defective sewers, 18 in connection with water supplies, 8 defective communications and 7 various. Some statutory notices have been issued during the year. Forty four informal notices were issued, of which forty two were complied with at the year end, and 1064 interviews with owners took place.

FACTORIES.

There has been no change in the number of factories on the register from last year, the numbers being 120 with mechanical power and 31 without mechanical power. The requirements with regard to five cookers have been practically complied with, only 3 unsprung resting stretchers. One case of overcrowding was found and remedied. Seventeen cases of lack of artificial lighting etc., in sanitary conveniences were reported, but of these 9 were remedied and 8 remain in hand. Forty one sub conveniences at several factories have been converted and water closets provided in place. The provisions regarding cleanliness and lime-washing have been fairly well carried out.

BAKEHOUSES.

There has been no change in the situation under this heading during the year, the total number being 20 of which 14 are classified "power factories" and 6 "non power factories". Forty visits of inspection have been made, and I am pleased to say that conditions in respect of cleanliness were found very satisfactory. Internal rearrangement of baking plant at one bakehouse has much improved the position. There are no underground bakehouses.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Smoke emission observations have been one of the activities necessarily curtailed owing to demands on working hours for the Government's survey regarding billeting. The number of smoke observations of 30 minutes made during the year was 22, and the number showing excess emission above the 3 minute limit of the Bye-law was 2. Two cautions were issued but no Statutory notices were issued and consequently no prosecutions.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The position here is about the same as last year. There are 85 registered cowkeepers. One extra licence was issued for the production of Accredited Milk bringing this total to 9. There are 127 cowsheds in the district and each one was visited twice during the year. The average number of cows kept is 850. The structural conditions on the whole are good. Numerous alterations have been done to defective sheds but this work has been somewhat curtailed since the war began owing to difficulty in getting materials.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT SUPPLY.

There is one public abattoir in the district and 11 private slaughterhouses, 10 of which are registered and 1 licensed, and of these, 4 are of an unsatisfactory nature. 117 visits were made to the abattoir and each of the 11 private premises were visited 60 times giving a total of 777 visits of inspection.

The totals of animals slaughtered and meat condemned are all recorded for future reports.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 85 houses were inspected and recorded, and of this number 70 required further action. 20 houses were brought before the notice of the Health Committee for consideration either as Clearance Areas or Closing Orders but no decision was taken.

Under the Public Health Acts 221 houses were inspected for defects, and 169 houses were rendered fit after the service of notices.

Under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936, notices were served requiring repairs in 40 houses, and of this number 20 houses were rendered fit by the owners.

New houses erected by the Council.

The following houses are in course of erection.

8 two bedroom type	Woods Estate, Marsden.
8 " " "	Leymoor Road, Golcar.
10 " " "	Springfield Avenue, Slaithwaite.
6 " " "	Fields Head, Linthwaite.
10 three " "	Springfield Avenue, Slaithwaite.
6 bungalows	Woods Estate, Marsden.
4 "	Leymoor Road, Golcar.

When these are completed it will be possible to re-house all the tenants in Clearance Areas and leave a small surplus to ease overcrowding.

New houses.

During the year 51 new houses have been erected by private builders and the Council, made up as follows:-

37 Private Builders.
14 Council.

Closing Orders were made on five houses during the year.

20 houses were completed demolition following the confirmation of Clearance Areas or Closing Orders.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 80 houses were inspected and repaired, and of this number 70 required further action. 30 houses were brought before the notice of the Health Committee for condemnation either as Clearance Area or Closing orders but no decision was taken.

Under the Public Health Acts 321 houses were inspected for defects, and 180 houses were repaired fit after the service of notices.

Under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936, notices were served requiring repairs in 40 houses, and of this number 20 houses were remedered fit by the owners.

New houses erected by the Council.

The following houses are in course of erection.

8	two bedroom type	Woods Estate, Harraden.
8	" "	Leyroor Road, Golcar.
10	" "	Springfield Avenue, Slaithwaite.
6	" "	Fields Head, Linthwaite.
10	three "	Springfield Avenue, Slaithwaite.
6	bungalows	Woods Estate, Harraden.
4	"	Leyroor Road, Golcar.

When these are completed it will be possible to re-house all the tenants in Clearance Areas and leave a small surplus to ease overcrowding.

New houses.

During the year 81 new houses have been erected by private builders and the Council, made up as follows:-

27 Private builders.
14 Council.

Closing orders were made on five houses during the year.

20 houses were compleated demolition following the confirmation of Clearance Areas or Closing Orders.